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## FOREIGN NOTES.

## GERMANY.

*The Journal of Education*, (London,) October 1, 1893.

*Ethics.*—At a recent ethical congress held at Eisenach, it was resolved that the subjects taught in the first years at school should, as far as possible, be connected with ethical ideas, that from the outset children should be accustomed to ethical thinking, and that this practice should be continued throughout their school life. As to when regular ethical instruction should begin, there was some difference of opinion. It was held, on the one hand, that it should not form a part of the regular curriculum till the twelfth year, and, on the other, that it should take the place of religious instruction from the beginning, and that special text-books should be written for the purpose.

*School Libraries.*—The Minister of Education has caused some very bitter feeling by his decree as to school libraries, which provides that the control of the libraries is no longer to be left in the hands of the clergy, but is to be handed over to the State-appointed school inspector, the clergy merely retaining the right of protesting against the introduction of any new books. The *Reform* calls this measure "a confiscation of church endowments," protesting that the libraries were founded and maintained by the clergy and therefore are church property. The government, on the other hand, considers that, as the libraries are intended for teachers and pupils, the control should be in the hands of the school authorities. Many of the clergy have declared that they see in this proceeding the beginning of the long-dreaded appropriation of church property by the State.

*Training Colleges.*—In Prussia the number of State training colleges for teachers has increased from 69 in 1871 to 111 in 1892, and during the same period the number of students, which was 5,008 in 1871, has more than doubled. Of these colleges 11 are for women, besides which 26 high schools for girls have a full training course attached.

*Text-books.*—A Ministerial notice has been issued to all Prussian school councils that text-books now in use are only to be changed when absolutely necessary; that petitions to be permitted to use text-books written by one of the masters of a school are to be refused until other schools petition for the same books; and that no foreigners are to be permitted to inspect high schools without special leave from the Minister himself. A notice has also been sent to the effect that the Minister receives a great number of petitions for the reinstatement of teachers who have been dismissed for inefficiency or other causes, but that his duty to the children will not allow him to grant them, although he knows how difficult it is for such teachers to obtain other employment.

Expressing himself generally satisfied with the great improvement in the teaching of German history in elementary schools since 1890, the Minister considers that too much time is still devoted to the earlier periods, to the grave neglect of the last two centuries.

*Illiteracy.*—The *Nedelfa* gives the following statistics as to elementary education in the different countries of Europe. The percentage of the population unable either to read or write is 0.2 in Saxony, 0.3 in Norway, 0.4 in Bavaria and Sweden, 0.6 in Prussia, 1.9 in Finland, 9.0 in England, 9.5 in France, 23.6 in Austria, 42.0 in Italy, 78.3 in Russia, 79.3 in Servia, 82.0 in Roumania, 85.0 in Bulgaria. There are no data for Turkey.

*The Schoolmaster*, (London), September 23, 1893.

*About the Prussian Teacher.*—A recent number of the *Berliner Morgen Zeitung* contains a most interesting article on the Prussian teacher. It adduces the striking fact that in a land where compulsory education has been the rule for many years, only  $6\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. of the now active men teachers

and 1.4 per cent of the women teachers are above sixty years of age. This small percentage of elderly teachers is partly due to the operation of the Pension Law of 1886 but it is also largely due to the exhausting nature of the teaching profession, and to the poor salaries paid to Prussian teachers, which necessitate their giving what should be their hours of rest, to labor, in order to supplement their scanty incomes. A doleful consequence of this excessive labor is the large percentage of teachers who die before reaching middle age. Whilst throughout Prussia the number of widows is about one-fourth of the total number of marriages, the widows of teachers number one-third of the marriages. The minimum salary of a Prussian teacher is 750 marks (£37 10s.), but he does not receive all this in cash. He receives a free house and firing. The value of these items is reckoned up and deducted from his cash payment. Dividing the total cash sum paid to teachers in Prussia by the total members of teachers' families, it results that the average annual income for each member of a family is 272 marks (£13 12s.), or 75 pfennige (9d.) per day. This is, of course, an average, but in the cases of large families the amount per diem per individual is much less. The article which we are endeavoring to summarize pays a high tribute to the influence for good exercised by the teaching body, not only on the children with whom they are immediately brought into contact, but on the people amongst whom they dwell, and questions whether it is a wise policy for Prussian statesmen to allow so worthy a body of men and women to continue to be remunerated at a rate which is sufficient to do little more than provide food. The "land of the schools and the barracks" should be the last to have such a reproach leveled at it.

#### SALARIES, IRELAND.

Salaries in Ireland are, of course, abominably shabby. The head master averages £87 1s. 2d. (England, £134 5s. 8d.; Scotland, £165 10s. 10d.). The head mistress "enjoys" on an average £73 9s. 6d. per annum (England, £83 8s. 6d.; Scotland, £74 14s. 9d.). The assistant certificated master, £52 14s. 1d. (England, £94 9s. 9d.; Scotland, £91 18s. 11d.). And, finally, the Irish assistant certificated mistress revels in £43 os. 8½d. a year on an average, whilst her English and Scotch sisters are paid £69 6d. 7d. and £59 4s. 7d. respectively.

#### STATE AID, ENGLAND.

*Technical Instruction.*—In the House of Commons, Saturday, 16th September, Mr. H. Fowler informed Mr. Loder that out of the sums allocated to the London County Council for the furtherance of Technical Instruction, £30,000 was expended for that purpose in 1892-3, and £57,000 this year, while the County Council received in 1892-3 from the Government £172,000, and they would receive about the same sum this year.

*Museums, Picture Galleries, and Colleges.*—The House went into Committee of Supply, when votes for £405,015 for Science and Art, £87,500 for the British Museum, £6,383 for the National Gallery, £736 for the National Portrait Gallery, and £13,633 for scientific investigation in the United Kingdom were agreed to after a brief discussion.

#### COMMUNICATION.

[The following letter received by the SCHOOL REVIEW is of interest to all teachers of the State of New York, and we regret our inability to print it earlier.—EDITOR SCHOOL REVIEW.]

DEAR SIR :

The great growth of the regents' examinations has made it impossible for the regents office to extend to the schools the amount of accommodation